

Wabash Plain Dealer

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WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 23, 2021

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather 86 | 69



Pulse
of Wabash

Notice to readers

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Manchester Civic Band plans live performances

Manchester Civic Band performances at Peabody Retirement Community have been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, June 23, Sept. 22 and Dec. 1. This year's Timbercrest Retirement Community performances have been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, June 30, Sept. 29 and Dec. 8. They have tentatively scheduled performances for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 26 for alumni at Pierceton Elementary School; Saturday, July 31 at the North Manchester Summerfest parade; and Saturday, Oct. 2 for a concert at Harvest Fest. In addition, performances have also been tentatively scheduled for the North Manchester Fun Fest parade and at Doud's Orchard Open House in Denver, Indiana.

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Building a plan to combat local population loss

Imagine One 85 plans a free festival for the community in July

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

For the past 40 years or so, Wabash County has been steadily losing its population. For the past few years, though, a group of local lead-

ers has decided to take this alarming trend head-on.

Their work will be showcased next month during a free community festival.

Grow Wabash County (GWC) CEO and president Keith Gillenwater and Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) executive director Patricia Grant have been making their way from one local governmental agency to another to present

their findings.

Their most recent appearances included the North Manchester Town Council monthly meeting, a Wabash County Board of Commissioners meeting and last week's Wabash City Council meeting.

Imagine One 85 is led by the CFWC and GWC and a team of elected and appointed officials representing Wabash County, the city of Wabash,

and the towns of LaFontaine, Lagro, North Manchester and Roann

The process is funded by the Community Foundation, a grant from Lilly Endowment, Grow Wabash County, Manchester University, all of the county's incorporated communities and private citizens.

Grant said they last spoke before the Wabash City

See POPULATION, page A9

Manchester awards first full-ride Multicultural Excellence scholarship



Provided photo

Brianna Howard, a recent Brownsburg High School graduate, has taken advanced placement and honors courses while maintaining a high grade-point average.

Brownsburg High School graduate Brianna Howard honored

By ANNE GREGORY

Brianna Howard is the first recipient of Manchester University's new full-ride Multicultural Excellence in Leadership Scholarship. It covers tuition, fees, room and board for up to four years.

The recent Brownsburg High School graduate has taken advanced placement and honors courses while maintaining a high grade-point average.

This full-ride scholarship is renewable each year, for a total of four years. It covers

tuition, fees and on-campus room and meal plan expenses. Manchester will award one scholarship each year.

"This scholarship allows us to encourage the leaders of tomorrow," said Manchester University President Dave McFadden. "Brianna demonstrates a strong commitment to advocate for change and has a strong academic record. We are pleased to welcome her to the Manchester community."

Howard's scholarship application essay, "Be the Change," focused on sys-

temic racism within law enforcement and finding societal solutions that go beyond social media.

"Brianna demonstrates the character and qualities you hope for in a college applicant," said Alex Gregg, her high school math teacher, adding that she "demonstrated the level of commitment necessary to succeed in college and beyond."

"Manchester created the Multicultural Excellence in Leadership Scholarship to lift up exceptional and talented students who identify as a racial or ethnic minori-

ty," said Ryon Kaopuiki, vice president for enrollment and marketing at Manchester. "At Manchester, we are creating the next generation of medical practitioners, law-makers, social justice champions, artists, educators and people of business."

Multicultural Student Leadership Awards of \$2,000 a year will also go to five top finalists. The awards are renewable each year for up to four years.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

Plans to vacate Bridge No. 144 on hold

INDOT awarded over \$1.5M in February to replace nearby Bridge No. 143

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A public hearing on whether or not Wabash County should vacate a controversial bridge has been put on hold until next month.

Wabash County Bridge No. 144 has been unusable due to flood damage for over three years, and a group of nearby residents has become more and more concerned they will be permanently left with only one way in and out of their homes and businesses.

The bridge on the east end of that road, Bridge No. 143, has needed repairs, as well.

An amended petition to vacate parts of Coun-

ty Road 50 East and 1050 South, including Bridge No. 144, was filed Monday by Wabash County Highway Department supervisor Cole Wyatt.

The item was scheduled to be heard during last week's regular Wabash County Board of Commissioners meeting but was postponed until the Monday, July 12 meeting due to an advertising error.

"The status is still in a holding pattern due to the

incorrect public notice," said Wabash County auditor Marcie Shepherd on Tuesday. "No decisions have been made on the roads or bridges yet. The public hearing must take place first, for everyone to have a say in the petition."

Wyatt stated the Wabash County Highway Department seeks to vacate 2,676 feet of County Road 50 East, including Bridge No.

See BRIDGE, page A8

Wabash sets city fireworks display for July 4

WPD reminds citizens to observe the state's fireworks lawsWPD reminds citizens to observe the state's fireworks laws

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

As Wabash County communities plan their annual Independence Day fireworks displays, Wabash Police Department (WPD) is warning locals to observe the state's fireworks laws.

On Tuesday, WPD public information officer Capt. Matt Benson said Wabash city's fireworks were being planned for dusk Sunday, July 4, with a rain date of Monday, July 5.

Benson said according to Indiana's fireworks laws, a person may use fireworks on their property or have received permission from the property owner.

A person must be at least 18 years old to possess or use fireworks unless a responsible adult is present.

"Fireworks are not permitted on city property," said Benson.

Benson said times for legal consumer fireworks discharges on holidays – including Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and New Year's Eve – are 9 a.m. to midnight.

Fireworks may be

See FIREWORKS, page A8

WCUF to distribute new round of COVID funding

Indiana United Ways, Lilly money to be used for Basic and Essential Needs grants

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Friday, the Wabash County United Fund (WCUF) received a new round of COVID-19 funds from Indiana United Ways and Lilly Endowment, said executive director Steve Johnson.

And on Monday, the WCUF announced the availability of Basic and Essential Needs grants created from those COVID-19 funds.

Johnson said the WCUF goes through their annual agency funding process each

See WCUF, page A9

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Christmas in July planned at Salamonie Lake

The public and campers are invited on Saturday, July 24

STAFF REPORT

The public and campers are invited to join us for an assortment of activities at Salamonie Lake’s Christmas in July on Saturday, July 24 at 9214 W. Lost Bridge West, Andrews, according to interpretive manager Teresa Rody. “If you’re camping, be sure to bring your outdoor Christmas decorations and enter the campground decorating contest,” said Rody. Awards will be announced at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 25 at the Interpretive Shelter. “Saturday morning, fill up on some scrumptious pancakes at the Pancake

Breakfast. Meet Smokey Bear for his birthday celebration, play a game of corn hole, and try your hand at archery, with a certified shooting sports instructor,” said Rody. The schedule of events for Saturday, July 24 will be: ■ 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Pancake Breakfast at Pond Shelter. Brought to you by Friends of Upper Wabash Interpretive Services. Donations accepted. ■ 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Campsite Decorating Sign-up at Pond Shelter. ■ 2 p.m.: Corn Hole Registration Begins at Pond Shelter. ■ 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Water Games, Youth Archery Shoot and Corn Hole at Pond Shelter. ■ 6:15 p.m.: Bike Decorating at Dump Station. ■ 6:15 p.m.: Decorating

Shelter at Amphitheater, for those not participating in the parade. ■ 6:45 p.m.: Smokey Bear Parade starts at Dump Station, and the campground roads will be closed from 6:45 to 7:10 p.m. ■ 7 p.m.: Smokey Bear Birthday Bash at Amphitheater. ■ 8:30 p.m.: Campsite Decorating Judging. The Campsite Decorating Awards will be at the Amphitheater at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 25. Campsite reservations may be made by visiting camp.IN.gov or calling 866-622-6746. Property entrance fees apply of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle. State Park annual entrance passes are available for purchase at the property gate.

Wabash VFW Post No. 286 to hold tenderloin dinner Friday

The Wabash Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 will hold a tenderloin dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 25 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford. The menu will include hand-breaded tenderloin, French fries and a choice of coleslaw or pasta salad. The cost will be \$9 per person. The event will be open to the public. Carryout will be available.

A decision to celebrate

The Supreme Court just ruled against the city of Philadelphia, which was trying to prevent Catholic Social Services (CSS) from helping children in foster care get placed in homes, due to CSS’s views on homosexual marriage. Had the Supreme Court ruled differently, the case would have been heralded as a Pride Month win. But the Supreme Court went a different way. And this should give us hope that everything doesn’t have to be about sex and politics. Sometimes it can be about our common humanity and the needs of the most vulnerable. “Maximizing the number of foster families and minimizing liability are important goals, but the City fails to show that granting CSS an exception will put those goals at risk. If anything, including CSS in the program seems likely to increase, not reduce, the number of available foster parents.” Thank you, Chief Justice John Roberts, for writing that in the decision. Thank you, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer, for joining in this unanimous decision. We don’t agree on a lot of things, and that’s what makes this decision such a treasure. The ruling has me thinking about a book by Mary Eberstadt, “It’s Dangerous to



Kathryn Lopez

Believe: Religious Freedom and Its Enemies,” published in 2016. It was framed as a plea from a conservative Christian to people of good will on the left, saying that the secular mindset goes too far when it loses sight of pluralism and becomes hostile to real, lived religion. Eberstadt asserted that the sexual revolution had effectively set up a religion to rival Judeo-Christian morality. This new creed “elevates pleasure and self-will to first principles.” This understanding “explains the outsize hostility toward believers who have been minding their own business, or trying to educate their children, or expressing their faith in public forums – or otherwise behaving in ways that that once invited no penalties and now do.” This is what caused the city of Philadelphia to cut off ties with CSS, a storied and superior player in the foster-care and adoption space, because of its views on marriage and the family. And the good news is: The Supreme Court agrees with Eberstadt. Things have gone too far. The ruling suggests that we can, in fact, work together for the good of children, even when we adults disagree on some fundamental things. “Government fails to act neutrally when it proceeds in a manner intolerant of religious beliefs or restricts practices because of their religious nature,” wrote Roberts in the decision. Again, thank you, Chief Justice John

Roberts! This is how we live together, protecting religious freedom, even when we have disagreements about the nature of marriage and the human person. In “It’s Dangerous to Believe,” Eberstadt writes: “Reasonable people of a-religious or even anti-religious inclination might also err on the side of magnanimity by acknowledging the possibility that believers have something to offer the wider society – including not only their charitable operations, but also their expanding critique of a revolution that continues to transform the whole world.” She cites Jonathan Rauch, who was a proponent of same-sex marriage before it was law, who said: “If Catholic Charities doesn’t want to place children for adoption with same-sex couples in Massachusetts, but lots of other agencies will make the placement, we can live with that.” And so, it should be in Philadelphia and anywhere else there are children in need. As we head toward Independence Day, let’s rally for freedom – true pluralism in the United States again. It might just dial down our political and cultural temperatures. Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

U.S. to review dark history of Indigenous boarding schools

By SUSAN MONTTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

The federal government will investigate its past oversight of Native American boarding schools and work to “uncover the truth about the loss of human life and the lasting consequences” of the institutions, which over the decades forced hundreds of thousands of children from their families and communities, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced Tuesday. The unprecedented work will include compiling and reviewing decades of records to identify past boarding schools, locate known and possible burial sites at or near those schools, and uncover the names and tribal affiliations of students, she said. “To address the intergenerational impact of Indian boarding schools and to promote spiritual and emotion-

al healing in our communities, we must shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past no matter how hard it will be,” Haaland said. A member of New Mexico’s Laguna Pueblo and the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary, Haaland outlined the initiative while addressing members of the National Congress of American Indians during the group’s midyear conference. She said the process will be long, difficult and painful and will not undo the heartbreak and loss endured by many families. Starting with the Indian Civilization Act of 1819, the U.S. enacted laws and policies to establish and support Indian boarding schools across the nation. For over 150 years, Indigenous children were taken from their communities and forced into boarding schools that focused on assimilation.

Haaland talked about the federal government’s attempt to wipe out tribal identity, language and culture and how that past has continued to manifest itself through long-standing trauma, cycles of violence and abuse, premature deaths, mental health issues and substance abuse. The recent discovery of children’s remains buried at the site of what was once Canada’s largest Indigenous residential school has magnified interest in the troubling legacy both in Canada and the United States. In Canada, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into society. They were forced to convert to Christianity and were not allowed to speak their languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

5-Day Weather Summary

Wednesday Partly Cloudy 78 / 59	Thursday Partly Cloudy 86 / 69	Friday Few Showers 81 / 71	Saturday Showers Likely 80 / 68	Sunday Showers Likely 81 / 65

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 9:14 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 6:16 a.m.

Full 6/24	Last 7/1	New 7/9	First 7/17

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies, high of 78°, humidity of 48%. South southeast wind 5 to 11 mph. Expect mostly clear skies tonight, overnight low of 59°. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Thursday, skies will be partly cloudy, high of 86°, humidity of 50%. South southeast wind 5 to 13 mph.

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR holds June meeting

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 14

STAFF REPORT

The monthly meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) took place on Saturday, June 12 at the Country Family Restaurant, North Manchester, according to regent Barbara Amiss. Ten members were present to welcome new member Heidi Wise. The meeting opened with the DAR ritual, followed by devotions by chaplain Tamra Wise. The June President General’s message from Denise Doring VanBuren was shared by Joyce Joy-Baker. “Outstanding speakers, informative reports, deserving honorees and worthwhile events are all on the horizon as we gear up for the Virtual 130th Continental Congress. It will also certainly be a thrill

to unveil our newly restored DAR Constitution Hall following a massive project to replace everything from the subfloor to the superstructure. Yes, the curtain is about to rise on The Next Act at DAR Constitution Hall,” said Doring VanBuren. The National Defender report and program were on World War II, Guy DeGenaro, as he volunteered for “a dangerous mission” in the U.S. Army Air Corps, flying gliders. He few troop-carrying gliders in three major airborne assault landings, including Normandy on D-Day with the 82nd Airborne Division, Holland with the 101st Airborne Division and the Rhine River Crossing into Germany with the 17th Airborne Division. These experiences were later immortalized in a book by Cornelius Ryan and a movie titled, “A Bridge Too Far.” Committee Minutes were on American Indian, Constitution, Conservation, American Flag and Women’s Is-

sue. Amiss reported on the 120th Indiana DAR State Conference and awards received. Chaplain Tamra Wise conducted a memorial service for six departed members, including Dora Russell Dennison, Johanna “Joby” Kunkler Kaufman, Avonne Lee Reed Knecht, Joanne White Ranck, Adelene Gilliam Smith and Nancy McCullough Tiger. The next meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave. Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may contact www.dar.org or Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Amiss at 260-982-4376.

WABASH MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND-SEMESTER HONOR ROLL

Sixth Grade High Honor Roll

Makenna Bechtold, Lucas Coffman, Chloe Cooper, Braelyn Eis, Mia Fairchild, Haylee Figert, Violet George, Sally Harrell, Grace Harrington, Shailynn Harrison, Rinka Higuera, Syler Keirsey, Haiden McWhirt, Jarrett McWhirt, Phillip Palmer, Colin Patton, Clayton Shepler, Mallory Tart, Averie Turner, Emma VanCamp and Harley Zumbrun.

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Sixth Grade

Obituaries

Daniel L. ‘Dan’ Smith

June 24, 1984 – June 18, 2021

Daniel L. “Dan” Smith, 36, Muncie, formerly of North Manchester, Indiana, passed away at his mother’s home on June 18, 2021. He was born in Columbia City, Indiana on June 24, 1984 to Bonnie (Rice) Smith.

During his time at Manchester High School, Dan was a member of Future Farmers of America and a ten-year member of Wabash County 4-H, where he showed swine. After graduating in 2003, he attended Vincennes University where he graduated with an Agriculture Business degree in 2005 and later graduated from Purdue University in 2008 with a Bachelor degree in Agriculture Business. He used his degree as the Oper-



ations Manager at Nutrien Ag Solutions for the last ten years.

Dan will always be remembered for being a great big brother, son, and friend. He was a passionate, hardworking, sometimes ornery man

who had a loving heart and a giving personality. He wanted those around him to be happy and always met people with a smile. If anyone ever needed anything, Dan would give everything that he could to help them.

The loving memory of Dan L. Smith will be forever cherished by his mother, Bonnie Smith, North Manchester; brother, Nathan “Tater” Smith, North Manchester; grandparents, Allen and Doris Rice, North Manchester; uncles, Mike (Bev) Rice, Warsaw, Ron Rice, Indianapolis, Steve Rice, Huntington County, Doug (Lisa) Rice, North Manchester, and Andy (Jennifer) Rice, Huntington County; aunts, Becky Fair-

child, Indianapolis and Jenny (Brian Shield) Rice, Indianapolis; and numerous cousins, who he loved.

Family and friends may call Sunday, June 27, 2021 from 2 to 7 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester, Indiana. Funeral services will be held Monday, June 28, 2021 at 11 a.m. with calling beginning at 10 am. at McKee Mortuary. Pastor J.P. Freeman will officiate, and burial will be at Fairview Cemetery, County Road 300 East and County Road 1000 North, Servia, Indiana.

The family of Dan L. Smith has entrusted McKee Mortuary with care and final arrangements.

Alice Kay Slagal

Feb. 12, 1942 – April 12, 2021

On Monday, April 12, 2021, Alice Kay Slagal, loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed away at the age of 79.

Kay was born on Feb. 12, 1942 in Peru, Indiana to Gerald and Mary (Fox) Hayes. She attended Somerset school, married Benny G. Crowe and had two children, Jerry Gayle Crowe and Mary Katherine (Crowe) Carroll. She raised her children in and around Wabash, Indiana, working for 30 years for General Tire, and then as a truck driver with her second husband, Donald Slagal, once her children were grown.

Kay had a passion for interior design and decorating. Friends and family marveled at her ever-changing decor and talent for finding just the right pieces to complete her vision. She loved to go “junking” to discover new treasures. Kay was also known for her hospitality and wonderful cooking, including her famous egg noodles. As an avid reader, she could devour a book a day and always kept up on current events.



Everyone who knew Kay loved her. She was a champion of the underdog, and had a knack for knowing just what you needed – whether it was offering sage advice, fixing a cup of coffee or a hot plate, or quietly attending to what needed to be done – she was always there for those in need. She will be remembered by friends, family and neighbors for her quick wit, ready laugh, and kind and compassionate spirit. As one neighbor put it, “They don’t make them like her anymore.”

Kay was proceeded in death by her parents, as well as her husband Don. She is survived by her children, Jerry and Kathie, her sister, Carla (Hayes) Gaines, brothers, Danny Hayes, Buddy Hayes and Jerry Hayes; granddaughters Gina (Crowe) Cooper and Andrea Carroll-Gerstlé, and several great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash.

A celebration of life will be 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Friday, June 25, 2021, in the Chapel of Remembrance at Memorial Lawns Cemetery, 1100 Manchester Avenue, Wabash. Inurnment will follow in the Chapel of Remembrance Mausoleum at Memorial Lawns Cemetery. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in her name to The Cancer Research Institute (cancerresearch.org) or Feeding America (feedingamerica.org).

The memorial guest book for Kay may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

Rebecca ‘Becky’ Sue (Bowman) Wykes

Sept. 24, 1944 – June 16, 2021

Rebecca “Becky” Sue (Bowman) Wykes, age 76, passed away on June 16, 2021, after complications following open-heart surgery with family members by her side. She was born Sept. 24, 1944, in Marion, IN to Earl and Mauldred Bowman, and became the pesky little sister Roberta Freitag really didn’t want but became best friends with anyway. She graduated from Somerset High School in 1962 and attended Indiana Central College (now University of Indianapolis). There she met and married her husband, Dan Richards. A few years later, she produced their only son, Doug, who inherited her great sense of humor.

After her first marriage ended, Becky married Walter Wykes in 1973, who preceded her in death in 2016. They began a blended family with nine children: Doug Richards (Paula), Paul Wykes (Zoe), Phil Wykes, Cliff Wykes, Chris



Wykes, Mike Wykes, Nancy Wykes, Patty Wykes (Kevin Deville), and Kay Wykes (Carl). Becky is survived by eight children, twelve grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, her sister, three nephews and numerous cousins.

In her late forties, she went back to school and received a degree in interior design from Butler and then began a small business. Outside of work, she

enjoyed spoiling her grandkids, the arts, home tours, designing her flower garden, and donating time to her church and Habitat for Humanity.

Becky was self-deprecating, humble, funny, and kind, blessed with unbounded positive energy and encouragement. She was our family’s biggest cheerleader, always looking for the best in all of us, no matter how many times we might fall short. She could quickly identify when someone was feeling down, shy, or left out, and could make them feel accepted and valued. That is why she was so beloved as a mom, stepmom, Grammy, and vacation bible school volunteer.

Above all, she was considerate and thoughtful. She literally sent hundreds of greeting cards to friends, family, and even “friends of family” each year. If you were important to someone she knew, you were important to her. In addition

to two cats, she leaves behind a drawer filled with blank funny cards full of encouragement and good wishes. Now is the time to unload your Hallmark stock people.

Some people teach the rest of us how to live with the junk life throws at you. Becky was one of those people. Her secret power was her faith, and with it, she simplified problems, lightened burdens, and made others feel loved. That is her legacy she would want you to carry on.

Becky’s calling will be at Zionsville United Methodist Church from 3 to 5 pm Sunday, June 27, with a Celebration of Life service at 5 pm. View a livestream of the service at: <https://boxcast.tv/view/becky-wykes-celebration-of-life-426370>

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the church or the Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity.

Terry Lee Keaffaber

Sept. 23, 1938 – June 20, 2021

Terry Lee Keaffaber, 82, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died 6:05 am, Sunday, June 20, 2021, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne. He was born on Sept. 23, 1938, in Wabash, Indiana, to Elmer F. and Nellie M. (Hollingshead) Keaffaber.

Terry was a 1956 graduate of Noble High School. He married Shirley Middleton in Wabash on Dec. 7, 1956. Terry worked at the Container Corporation in Wabash 44 years, retiring in 2000. He was a member of the Wabash First United Methodist Church, and a former member of the Wabash Eagles and Moose Lodges. Terry enjoyed his tractor, working in the yard, gardening, loved his dog Molly, but especially loved his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Keaffaber of Wabash, two children, Tina (Jay) Rife of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Robbie Keaffaber of Wabash,

four grandchildren, Lane Keaffaber and Erin Keaffaber, both of Prineville, Oregon, Eric (Erin) Rife of Liberty, Ohio, and Stacy (Dustin) Johnson of Las Vegas, three great-grandchildren, Jacob Johnson of Las Vegas, Payne Rife and Emma Rife, both of Liberty, Ohio, and brother, Ronnie Keaffaber of Wabash. Terry was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be 2 pm, Monday, June 28, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor John Cook officiating. Burial will be in Falls Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 2 -6 pm Sunday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Animal Shelter of Wabash County.

The memorial guest book for Terry may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.



Cordelia Ann Wooldridge

March 18, 1937 – June 20, 2021

Cordelia Ann Wooldridge, 84, of Wabash, Indiana, died 5:34 am, Sunday, June 20, 2021, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. She was born on March 18, 1937, in Wabash, Indiana, to Paul Wolfrum and Mary Louise (Garrison) Wolfrum Harnish.

Cordelia was a 1955 graduate of Somerset High School. She worked at General Tire in Wabash, and retired from Dekko Heating. Cordelia married Jerry Wooldridge in Wabash on Aug. 16, 1997. She attended Christian Heritage Church in Wabash. Cordelia enjoyed shopping, crafts, woodworking, and spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Wooldridge of Wabash, four children, John Paul Slagal of North Webster, Indiana, Belinda Farrara of Wabash, Jennifer (Tom) Duchateau of Ligonier, Indiana, and Don (Tammy) Slagal of Wabash, four children, David (Tammie) Wooldridge of Anderson, Indiana, Julie (Mark) Downs of Westfield, Indiana, and Stephen (Tammy) Wooldridge of Alexandria, Indiana, 20 grandchildren, and 37 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, two great-grandchildren, Bethany Duchateau and Luke Schneider, and brother, Darrell Wolfrum.

Funeral services will be 2 pm, Thursday, June 24, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Tim Prater officiating. Burial will be in Friends Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4 – 8 pm, Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is American Cancer Society.

The memorial guest book for Cordelia may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.



Barbara Louise (Place) Sluss Ellis

Nov. 25, 1946 – June 20, 2021

Barbara Louise (Place) Sluss Ellis, 74, of Wabash, Indiana, died 10:30 am, Sunday, June 20, 2021, at her home. She was born on Nov. 25, 1946, in Continental, Ohio, to Thomas A. and Edna L. (Shafer) Place.

Funeral services will be 11:00 am, Saturday, June 26, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor John Cook officiating. Friends may call 2-8 pm Friday, and one hour prior to the service Saturday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is FACT Program at Wabash First United Methodist Church.

The memorial guest book for Barbara may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

bash, with Pastor John Cook officiating. Friends may call 2-8 pm Friday, and one hour prior to the service Saturday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is FACT Program at Wabash First United Methodist Church.

The memorial guest book for Barbara may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Jerry W. Gustin

Jan. 23, 1947 – June 20, 2021

Jerry W. Gustin, 74, of Wabash, passed away at 5:35 a.m. on Sunday, June 20, 2021 at Life Care Center of Fort Wayne. He was born on Jan. 23, 1947, in Wabash, to the late Howie and Ruth Gustin.

Jerry is survived by one nephew, William McKinney, of Wabash.

A public graveside service will at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at Hopewell Cemetery in Lagro.

McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana, 46992, have been entrusted with funeral services for Jerry W. Gustin.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

vice will at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at Hopewell Cemetery in Lagro.

McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana, 46992, have been entrusted with funeral services for Jerry W. Gustin.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

The Byrds’ Chris Hillman on fame, faith and music

The Byrds’ classic “Turn! Turn! Turn!” didn’t sound like anything else on the radio when it hit No. 1 on the Billboard charts in 1965.

For starters, the lyrics came from the Book of Ecclesiastes, noting “there is a season, and a time for every purpose, under Heaven. A time to be born, a time to die. A time to plant, a time to reap. A time to kill, a time to heal. A time to laugh, a time to weep.”

What critics failed to realize, said Byrds co-founder Chris Hillman, was that covering the Pete Seeger classic was a logical move for musicians steeped in American roots music. Songs about struggle, glory, sacrifice and faith were common in early ’60s folk concerts.

“Where did all of our music come from? Blues and gospel. ... White church, Black church, the music all came from church,” said Hillman, in a recent interview. “With the Byrds, we went right to that well. We didn’t think twice about it. We didn’t say, ‘We can’t do a Christian song.’”

Hillman’s musical roots became more obvious as the Byrds ventured into what many started calling “country rock,” especially with the landmark “Sweetheart of the Rodeo” album in 1968. Bluegrass, country and gospel themes played a larger role as Hillman began writing songs for the Byrds and his later bands.

While the Byrds put him in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, it was Hillman’s grassroots connections that made history, according to the legend who produced his “Bidin’ My Time” solo project in 2017. The late Tom Petty said: “Chris was a true innovator – the man who invented country rock. Every time the Eagles board their private jet, Chris at least paid for the fuel.”

That musical and spiritual journey is clear in Hillman’s recent autobiography, “Time Between,” with its mix of rock lore and personal reflections. Rather than offering a tell-all about sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll, Hillman focuses on lessons he learned along the way and his love for the musicians who, flaws and all, helped him.

Hillman grew up near San Diego in an interfaith home – Jewish and Presbyterian – in which strong values were important, but not organized

religion. Then his father’s suicide rocked their world and forced the family’s move to Los Angeles. That’s where Hillman’s emerging bluegrass skills led to an unlikely audition, at age 19, with the folk group that became the Byrds. The rest is music history.

Eventually, Hillman’s demons attacked his life and music. By the late ’70s, he notes in the book: “I couldn’t outrun or bury my own pain. My long-held internal anger was reaching its highest point as my father’s suicide continued to haunt me. ... I was making choices that contributed to my restlessness and unhappiness. So much of that self-destructiveness, I now realize, was rooted in anger.”

In one 1977 song, “Clear Sailing,” he sang: “Yes, I’ve turned my back on you Jesus, and I hope you understand. Seems like everybody’s got an answer and nobody’s got a plan. ‘Cause I felt buried, buried alive. Satan, I sure know your sign, and this feeling deep inside makes me wanna shrivel up and die. And I still find myself asking why.”

Hillman wasn’t a Christian at that time but found it natural to use religious language when asking big questions, since that was normal in bluegrass and country culture. At the same

time, he was surrounded by talented Christians, including pedal-steel maestro Al Perkins, Eagle Bernie Leadon, songwriting partner Steve Hill and Byrds co-founder Roger McGuinn, who had become an evangelical Christian. Hillman also met music-business professional Connie Pappas, who he married in 1979. After becoming an evangelical, Hillman joined his wife in Orthodox Christianity in 1997.

“Time Between” opens with a scene connecting these themes, when their California home was threatened by a 2017 brush fire. With minutes to pack, Hillman grabbed two beloved musical instruments, family photos, crucial papers, the family dog, Daisy, and Orthodox icons from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Mount Sinai.

“I think that I had to go through all of those steps,” said Hillman. “There was the old, ‘If only I hadn’t done that or I hadn’t have done this, one time ...’ Yes, but I think God put me in each of those places, and each time, I had to learn and to move forward so I could get to where I am now.”

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

Students sue university over vaccine policy

BLOOMINGTON (AP) — Eight Indiana University students are suing the school, alleging that its COVID-19 vaccine requirement violates both their constitutional rights and the state’s new vaccine passport law.

The federal lawsuit, filed Monday, alleges that students face “strong consequences” if they refuse to get vaccinated, including canceled class registration and limits on taking part in on-campus activities.

The suit contends that IU’s policy violates the Fourteenth Amendment, which includes the rights of personal autonomy and bodily integrity and the right to reject medical treatment.

The students’ complaint also alleges that IU’s policy violates Indiana’s recently passed law banning vaccine “passports,” which Republican legislators pushed and which conservatives portray as a heavy-handed intrusion into personal freedom and private health choices.

IU is offering students medical and religious exemptions. Several of the students suing the school have applied for, and been granted, exemptions based on their religious beliefs. But the suit says they object to extra requirements placed on students who receive exemptions, such as requiring them to wear masks in public spaces.

0200

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Study explores memory benefits of nicotine

DEAR ABBY: My patients, like most Americans, believe memory loss is a normal part of aging. But memory loss is never normal. In fact, it can be a symptom of mild cognitive impairment (MCI), a precursor to Alzheimer’s disease. Nearly 1 in 7 people age 65-plus have MCI, but there is no treatment – yet.

Dear Abby



I’m proud to lead the NIH-funded MIND (Memory Improvement Through Nicotine Dosing) Study, which is testing whether memory and functioning can be improved in people with mild memory loss using an unexpected, low-cost and naturally occurring ingredient – nicotine. I realize that because of its association with smoking, nicotine gets a bad rap. But the tar and thousands of other chemicals in cigarettes are what cause cancer, heart disease or respiratory illness – not nicotine. If we could push Alzheimer’s back, by even a few years, it would make so much difference for millions of American families.

The MIND Study is enrolling healthy nonsmokers over the age of 55 with mild memory loss. I hope your readers who are interested will call (toll-free) 1-866-MIND-150 or visit MIND-Study.org to receive more information. – Paul Newhouse, M.D., Project Director, Vanderbilt University School Of Medicine

DEAR DR. NEWHOUSE: I hope so, too, and that they will be intrigued enough to join your study. I know that your study is valid and wish you – and the readers who choose to participate – the best of luck.

DEAR ABBY: I had several rough years in my marriage. We finally hit a good patch and had sex again. I told my husband to keep our sex life between ourselves and not discuss it with his family. Well, three days later, my daughter overheard him on the phone with a family member, explicitly discussing the intimate details of our encounter.

Unfortunately, she was unable to get to the door to close it and heard things that shocked her. Although she’s in her 20s, what he was saying about our relationship should not have been heard. She told me what was said, but not all of the details, thank goodness. When I confronted my husband, he denied it! I approached him twice more, and he pretended he didn’t know what I was talking about. Then he mumbled, “Don’t worry about it.”

He never admits he is wrong and thinks he should be able to discuss our sex life openly despite my strong disapproval. Our kids still live at home at 24 and 26. I am disgusted, hurt beyond forgiveness and strongly contemplating leaving him. Should I? – Old-Fashioned Wife

DEAR WIFE: Your husband had no right to invite his family into your marriage bed. Talking about your sex lives with the “children” (adult or not) is inappropriate unless they are as “liberated” as he is. He seems not only to lack boundaries but also to have a problem telling the truth. Because you are rightly embarrassed, draw the line. Tell him that unless he consents to accompany you to couples counseling, you are packing your bags. Do not say this, however, unless you mean it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Tongues do it
- 4 Ernst & Young staffer
- 7 Rum-soaked cake
- 11 Caviar, actually
- 12 Express contempt
- 13 Veld prowler
- 14 Reunion crowd
- 15 Bad-mannered
- 16 Where Tehran is
- 17 More nervous
- 19 Ruminates
- 21 Over and over
- 22 Furtive whisper
- 23 Justice Kagan
- 26 Ornamental fabric
- 28 Yes vote
- 29 Scoop out water
- 31 Pay phone feature
- 35 Prefix for trillion

- 37 Sax mouth-piece
- 39 Capitalize on
- 40 Sketch
- 42 Dishonest person
- 44 “— grip!”
- 46 Tiny legume
- 47 Correct a text
- 49 Seldom
- 53 Estate recipient
- 54 Traipse
- 56 Stage prompt
- 57 Archipelago dot
- 58 Bohemian
- 59 Chapeau
- 60 Accomplishment
- 61 A Stoooge
- 62 Ja, to Jacques

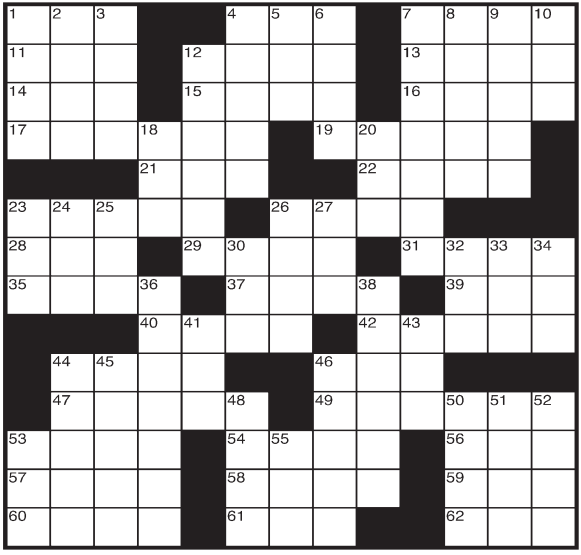
DOWN

- 1 Heard the alarm
- 2 Eager, plus
- 3 Work crew
- 4 Woo
- 5 Okra morsel
- 6 Polite cough
- 7 Ecstasies

Answer to Previous Puzzle



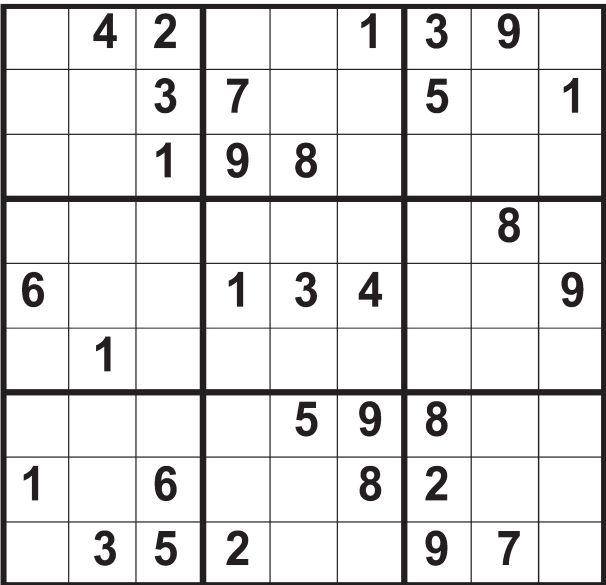
- 8 Buenos —
- 9 Crow
- 10 —
- 11 Margaret
- 12 Factory-assembled
- 18 Ca++ or Na+
- 20 Checkout ID
- 23 Raid the fridge
- 24 Cautious solution
- 25 Poet’s “always”
- 26 Legal claim
- 27 Tavern order
- 30 Branch
- 32 Carry wearily
- 33 Buckeyes’ sch.
- 34 Golf ball stand
- 36 Took up or let out
- 38 Moony
- 41 Auric’s creator
- 43 Tirreme mover
- 44 Gaggles group
- 45 Rousseau novel
- 46 Babble
- 48 Wee drink
- 50 Radar blip
- 51 Maui cookout
- 52 Abominable Snowman
- 53 Put under wraps
- 55 Sierra Madre gold



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
8	4	3	5	6	9	1	2	7
6	5	7	1	2	3	8	4	9
1	9	2	8	7	4	6	5	3
2	7	9	3	5	1	4	8	6
4	3	8	2	9	6	5	7	1
5	1	6	4	8	7	3	9	2
7	6	4	9	3	5	2	1	8
9	8	5	6	1	2	7	3	4
3	2	1	7	4	8	9	6	5

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GTURN

NYUTI

YRSPYU

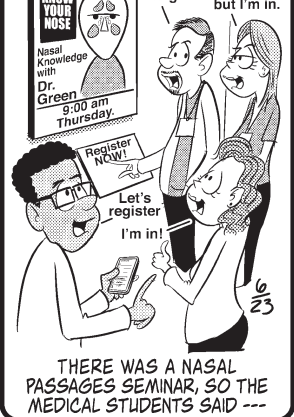
SULSEN

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Print your answer here:

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

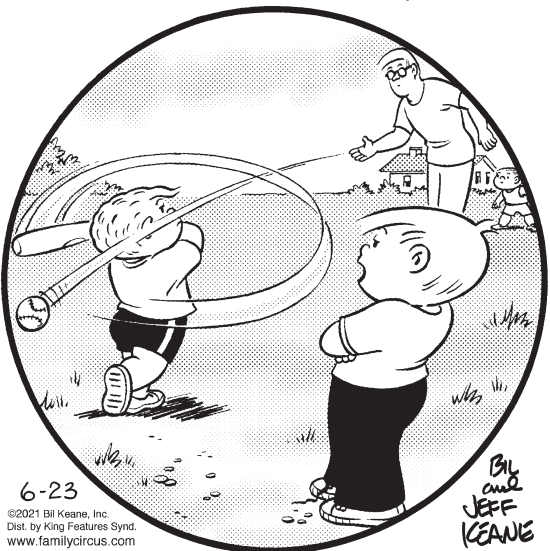
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

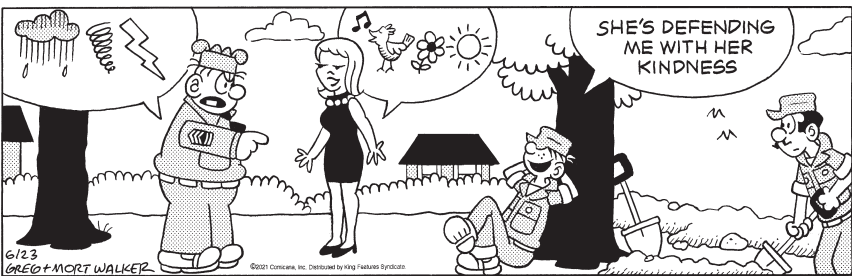
By Bil Keane



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“Strike fourteen!”

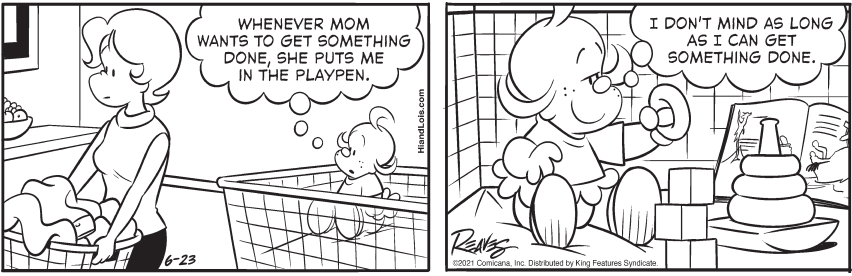
BEEBLE BAILEY



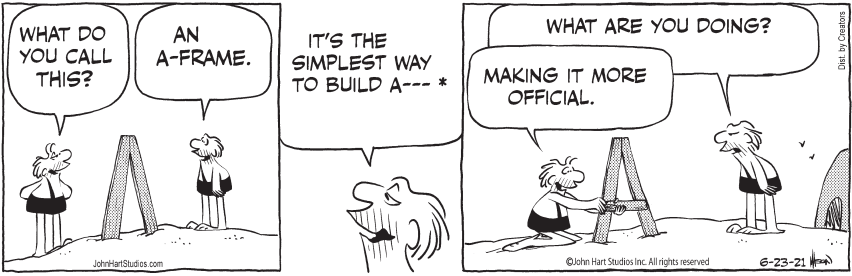
BLONDIE



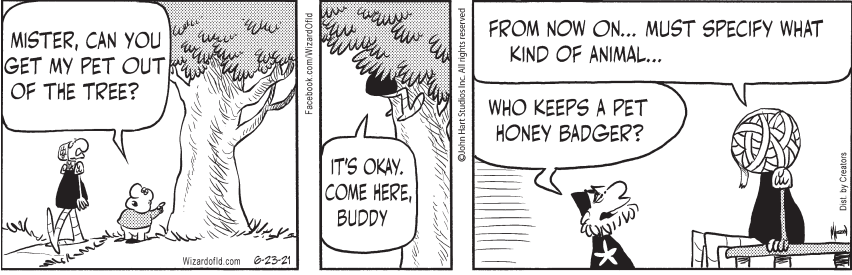
HI & LOIS



BC



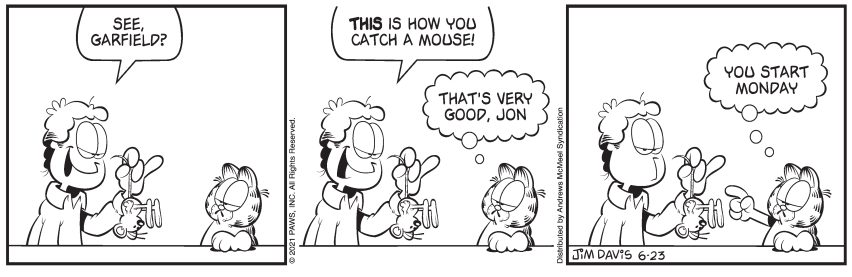
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Only God knows the future

Q: I’ve always been inclined to believe in God, but the older I get and the more suffering I see makes me wonder if God really does care about what people have to go through. Does He really understand us? – L.G.

A: God did not exclude himself from human suffering. He became man – the Person of Christ. Philip Yancey wrote, “God does not, in the comfortable surroundings of heaven, turn a deaf ear to the sounds of suffering on this groaning planet.”

We’ve read stories, seen paintings, and sat through numerous Christmas pageants about the birth of Jesus, focusing on the sweetness of it all, but Jesus’ life was in peril from the time He uttered His first cry. The most illustrious child ever born

was hated by many while He lay in a manger.

We don’t know much about His life as a child, but His entire life was one of humiliation; He came not as a conquering king but as a humble servant. When He was an adult, the leaders were suspicious of this carpenter from Nazareth, because He was a threat to them. They scorned Him and treated Him with contempt. They said He broke God’s law, that He was an unholy person – a drunkard and one who made friends with the scum of soci-

ety. He had the label of guilt by association stamped upon Him by self-righteous men. At the beginning of His ministry, His own ‘townsfolk’ at Nazareth tried to throw Him off a cliff. Religious and political leaders often conspired to seize and kill Him.

He knew the path of pain He would experience; yet He went to the cross for mankind. Oh what love, mercy, and salvation; His grace toward all! No man has ever endured – or will endure – what Christ did voluntarily for us.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“HK’C NPAS BLCHBU KZ VJLX
CPVVZUKHTW UZJBC FBALPCB KSLK’C
OSLK H GZ HT NX JHDB: H CPVVZUK
NX CZT.” — DULTABC NAGZUNLTG

Previous Solution: “(My father) has always provided me a safe place to land and a hard place from which to launch.” — Chelsea Clinton

TODAY’S CLUE: M s;enbe O

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaineader.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

1 John 4:18

After three Supreme Court wins, Obamacare here to stay

The ink had barely dried on the U.S. Supreme Court’s 7-2 decision on Thursday to smack down Texas’ ill-conceived challenge to the Affordable Care Act when Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton committed to finding another preposterous legal angle to continue the GOP’s interminable battle against one of the nation’s signature health care laws.

“As your Attorney General, I will continue to fight this law – in fact, I have only just begun,” Paxton tweeted.

Will Paxton ever learn? Not only does he have a disastrous record arguing before the Supreme – he’s lost at least five times since 2016 and three times in the past six months – he continues to tilt at legal windmills, at taxpayers’ expense, simply to froth up a base of Republican voters he needs to win re-election just by filing the lawsuit and firing off a press release.

So many swings and misses would be a rough night at the plate for Jose Altuve; it’s a downright embarrassing record for Texas’ top litigator.

It’s an unfortunate commentary on the state of our politics that so many voters seem to reward his cynical calculations, even though they are an enormous waste of time and money. We implore Paxton’s formidable Republican challengers – Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush and former Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman – to commit to end any further futile attempts at chipping away at the health care law.

After all, after Thursday it’s more

clear than ever that the ACA is remarkably durable, despite years of attempts at legal and legislative sabotage. This is the third time the law has survived Supreme Court review, with liberal and conservative judges joining to protect it in 2012 and 2015. In Congress, the GOP-controlled House tried to repeal it for years, until voters returned Democrats to the majority in 2018. And yet they failed repeatedly, even when Republicans controlled both houses of Congress and the White House in President Trump’s first two years.

The merits of this particular challenge were dubious. In 2017, after Trump failed to find the votes needed to repeal Obamacare as promised, Republicans lowered to zero the tax penalty for those who ignored the individual mandate to have insurance. Texas and the other plaintiffs sued, alleging that if there is no penalty then the mandate must be unconstitutional – and, they argued, if that’s so, the whole bill must be struck down.

Thursday’s opinion by Justice Stephen Breyer never even considered that latter argument, holding that if there is no penalty, then there is no harm for which the plaintiffs could seek redress. No harm, no standing. Even one of the court’s most conservative justices, and one who had twice voted to declare the law unconstitutional, joined the majority in rejecting Paxton and company’s arguments. “A fundamental problem with the arguments advanced by the plaintiffs,”

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in a concurring opinion, is that “they have not identified any unlawful action that has injured them.”

Open and shut. Would that that could be the end of it. Surely, Republicans must someday realize that Obama’s landmark achievement has only grown more popular since it became law in 2010. Potential consequences for getting rid of it have, too.

Striking down the Affordable Care Act would mean 21 million Americans would lose health insurance – a 69 percent increase in the uninsured nationally. Those losses would be felt across all racial and ethnic groups, but most acutely by Black, American Indian, and Latino people.

Paxton and others should end their quixotic fight against a law that genuinely helps people – and would help many more if Texas were only to take full advantage of it. Texas is one of 12 states that have refused to act on one of the law’s more popular provisions and expand Medicaid here. That measure alone would insure about 1.4 million more Texans, 75 percent of whom would be people of color, according to a recent study.

The Affordable Care Act isn’t perfect and is in serious need of repair. What it needs though is improvement, not repeal or replacement. But it won’t get either until its biggest critics stop their half-baked attempts to kill the law to score cheap political points.

This editorial was first published in the Houston Chronicle.

LETTERS

Crowing without feathers (in one’s cap)

Today our politicians are crowing loudly about 55 percent of targeted Americans being partially vaccinated, and maybe 45 percent being fully vaccinated, as if these numbers are the equivalent of summiting Everest.

Am I missing something here? At school, getting it 50 percent right would earn a student a grade of F.

I get that most people don’t trust the government and most never learned much science in school. But these social failures are the fault of leadership.

The founding fathers were clear about what was needed for real political leadership: knowledge, experience, and virtue (selfless personality).

The founders wanted leaders who had knowledge of political science, and particularly the difference between republicanism (“democracy”) and elected monarchy.

The founders wanted leaders who entered local public service and stayed there in a variety of capacities for a long time.

The founders wanted people who did not care for fame, fortune, or control, but merely the opportunity to educate others, serve the majority, and preserve the rights of the minority.

Is there one such politician serving anywhere in the United States today?

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

Compassionate legislators should support cultured meat research

I imagine Sens. Todd Young and Mike Braun, like most politicians, say they care about animal welfare. An easy way to prove it is to support federal funding for cultured-meat research. For readers who don’t know, cultured meat is grown from cells, without slaughter. Nothing would do more to reduce animal suffering and death than the advancement of this field.

Cultured meat has already been granted regulatory approval in Singapore, and is even available for home delivery. Meanwhile, an Israeli company has reduced production costs for a quarter pound of cultivated chicken to less than \$4. Still, federal investment is necessary to help reach price parity and develop whole-cut products. Compassionate legislators should support this.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Connecticut



What economists got right and wrong about COVID-19

As this pandemic hopefully winds down, its useful to think through the forecasts and analysis that economists got right, and what we got wrong. This is important because the U.S. has not

Michael Hicks



economists have played an important and lingering role in this pandemic. I begin with what we got right.

The pandemic’s effect on the economy was fast and furious. Nearly all the jobs lost during the downturn occurred before any government action to close restaurants and bars, enforce mask standards or limit gatherings. State governments responded with wildly different limitations, making it relatively easy to isolate the effect of disease and government action on the economy. Over the past several months a number of high-quality studies have made clear that it was disease, not government, that delivered and sustained this recession.

From the very beginning, the economics profession made it clear that fixing the economy meant ending the pandemic. That proved right. Whether or not the government interventions ultimately reduced the disease incidence

is an epidemiological question, not an economic one. But, any analysis of the cost and benefits, particularly of low-cost measures like mask wearing, would justify much of what happened last spring.

Economists were also correct about the general magnitude and industries most affected by the pandemic. For example, in March 2020 the center where I work published a study of those occupations most at risk nationally, and reported about 28 million workers at risk, with the average wage of about \$15 per hour. As it turns out, job losses in the first quarter exceeded 22 million, and were heavily clustered on workers making less than \$15 an hour. Given the uncertainty of the moment, that turned out to be a highly prescient analysis.

Last spring there was a loud chorus of economists warning of the effect of deep tax losses to state and local governments. Because Congress and two administrations heeded this warning in their fiscal response, that danger passed. There were a number of smaller matters economists got right, but we also missed some important economic changes.

Few economists foretold the major changes to consumption and savings that COVID and the broad fiscal relief brought. Consumer spending on entertainment and recreation remains almost 15 percent below pre-pandemic levels, while grocery spending is 17 percent higher. Overall consumer spending

is up 13 percent, and among taxable retail, spending is a whopping 25 percent higher than pre-pandemic levels.

The spending shift boosted tax revenues as households shifted consumption to more taxable items. A big portion of this was in the home construction sector. Perhaps too many economists were busy with home improvement projects last summer to recognize the implications of this consumption shift. These changes are likely transitory, or if not, do not present a compelling challenge to public policy.

Nearly every economist worried about the pace of labor market recovery following the pandemic. Many of us felt that the combination of low interest rates and longer-term pandemic risks would motivate firms to adopt labor-saving technology. In particular, bars, restaurants, accommodations and other face-to-face industries would likely see lower demand for workers in the post-pandemic era. Some of this has happened, but right now the greatest angst is over a labor shortage, not labor surplus.

It is too early to know any of this for sure, but over the past three months, job growth has largely stalled. Businesses claim this is due to workers unwilling to take a job, but for every new job created nationally, more than five workers lost benefits. Something else is happening.

Few economists, myself included, made public predictions of a permanent decline in labor supply. It

seems increasingly likely that workers, especially low-income workers, have shifted their desire to work. Some of this may be transitory, due to childcare issues, but some of it is permanent. Today it is increasingly clear that the only thing that will change this behavior is higher wages. I would not have anticipated this a year ago, and only a few other economists did so. In our defense, this is not really a public policy problem. Businesses are not owed workers any more than people are owed jobs. To argue otherwise is quite literally a mark of at least borderline socialism, but then intellectual consistency in these matters is no longer in vogue.

The biggest change from COVID is one few economists predicted back in April or May of 2020. Today it seems likely that 20 percent of jobs can be performed remotely, or at least quasi-remotely. This is a radical change that will upend housing and labor markets. Workers who can labor entirely at home no longer need to commute and are free to live nearly anywhere. Workers who work mostly at home can dramatically expand their household location choices. Businesses who can offer this flexibility can pay less for the same quality of work.

Taken together, this means flatter, less-densely populated cities. It means less commuting congestion and more demand for broadband and technology education and training. Homes will change to include quiet office spaces,

and the demand for single family housing in suburban and smaller-town America will grow. This necessarily means that families will choose neighborhoods with a greater emphasis on amenities such as schools, parks, public safety and walkability.

These changes were coming, but we probably just went through a multi-decade period of change in just a year or two. Few economists saw this coming early last year, but we are now in the midst of a great reckoning. However, I’m not sure seeing this change early would’ve made a huge policy difference. Economists have argued for almost three decades that household location decisions are primarily connected to local amenities. Some communities heeded this overwhelming evidence; others ignored it. Those who listened and acted successfully on quality of place will likely experience a boom decade. Those places that did not, will experience quite the opposite.

The lesson here is not that economists are especially knowledgeable about the future. We are not. But, this profession has very good tools for understanding long-term changes in behavior and for thinking through the implications of those changes. We also understand a bit about what causes local economies to grow or shrink. Those places that heeded these lessons have reason to view the recovery with some optimism.

Michael J. Hicks may be reached by email at cbdirector@bsu.edu.

BRIDGE

From page A1

144, situated immediately south of its intersection with County Road 1000 South; and 1,100 feet of County Road 1050 South situated immediately east of that part of County Road 50 East.

“Bridge No. 144 has fallen into disrepair and is no longer safe for motor vehicle traffic,” stated Wyatt.

Wyatt stated the cost to repair the approaches to Bridge No. 144, including bank stabilization and repairs to the east pier and abutment, is estimated to be \$700,000.

Wyatt stated that even with such repairs the county is facing additional expense to repair or replace the bridge itself soon at a cost of between \$1.7 million and \$4.4 million.

“The county can no longer afford to maintain the

bridge,” stated Wyatt.

Wyatt stated the vacation of the roadways and bridge as requested “would not hinder the growth or orderly development of the county or neighborhood in which they are located or to which they are contiguous; would not make access to the lands of any aggrieved persons, as defined by Indiana law, using public way difficult or inconvenient; would not hinder the public’s access to a church, school or other public building or place; and would not hinder the use of a public way by the neighborhood in which it is located to which it is contiguous.”

Owners and lessees of land that abut that part of the county roads to be vacated are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Milliner Farms, of LaFontaine.

In February, Indiana

Department of Transportation (INDOT) strategic communications director Scott Manning said Wabash County was awarded \$1,515,200 for the replacement of Bridge No. 143 on County Road East 1050 South over Grant Creek.

Wyatt said the funding would completely replace the bridge “and adjust the elevation of the east approach.”

In November 2020, Wyatt submitted a proposal to provide this local funding, which was approved unanimously by the Wabash County Board of Commissioners. Shepherd said the county portion was \$436,000 for the bridge project.

On Tuesday, Wyatt said the status of projects on County Road 1050 South at this time includes some pavement repairs scheduled to be completed this week and the replacement of Bridge No. 143.

Wyatt said construction for Bridge No. 143 is slated for fiscal year 2026.

Wyatt said that once construction on Bridge No. 143 was to begin, the residents that reside on County Road 1050 South, west of Bridge No. 143 would “obviously” maintain access to their homes during construction.

James Derck, who has been one of several nearby residents who have made their displeasure known at various Wabash County Board of Commissioners meetings, said Bridge No. 144 was “one of my major trade routes.”

“The county does not care what it does to my business. When work starts on Bridge No. 143 it will crush me even more. They say it won’t but that is simply not true,” he said in March.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

FIREWORKS

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discharged between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. on all other days.

“The Wabash City Police urge citizens to use extreme caution when discharging fireworks. Reckless behavior causing serious injury to someone else could lead to criminal prosecution,” said Benson. “The Wabash City Police are asking all citizens be considerate of their neighbor’s property when discharging fireworks. Close supervision of all children around fireworks will help prevent subsequent injury.”

In addition to Wabash’s fireworks display, Manchester University, Manchester Community Schools (MCS) and the town of North Manchester announced last week they would present the 2021 Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Display at Manchester High School on Saturday, July 3, said Manchester

University Office of Strategic Communications assistant director of media relations Anne Gregory. The rain date is Sunday, July 4.

The free celebration kicks off at 7 p.m. with the Manchester Civic Band.

Parking is available at Manchester High School, Manchester Administrative Building and Manchester Recreation Association lots.

The North Manchester Fire Department will light up the sky with fireworks over the high school baseball field at about 10 p.m.

Manchester University assistant vice president for facilities and auxiliary operations Alexis Young, MCS business manager Jeremy Markham and North Manchester town manager Adam Penrod organized the overall event.

For the safety of guests, no alcohol, sparklers or personal fireworks are permitted.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PULSE

From page A1

Second Harvest to hold a tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesdays, June 23 and July 28 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday, July 14 at the Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Honeywell announces 2021 Summer Plaza Music Series

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment’s Summer Plaza Music Series is returning to the Honeywell Center Carpenter Plaza, featuring performing groups from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays including Sparrow 5 on June 24; and Mississinewa Valley Swing Band on July 1. The Summer Plaza Music Series is free and open to the public. Food from the Plaza Grille will be available during all performances, including burgers, hot dogs, nachos and cheese, and more. In the case of inclement weather, performances will be canceled. For more information, visit HoneywellArts.org/plaza.

INDOT to begin maintenance work on Indiana 13 bridge over Mississinewa

INDOT announced bridge maintenance work would soon begin on Indiana 13 over the Mississinewa River. Crews will be conducting the bridgework seven miles south of Wabash between Whites Drive and Howell Road. The work is scheduled to begin on or after Thursday, June 24 and is expected to last until mid-August. During construction, Indiana 13 will be reduced to one lane. Traffic should be prepared to stop and obey the temporary traffic signal. There’s a width limit of 12 feet in the project zone.

WCPL plans summer reading events

For children in fifth grade and younger, Mystery Maker Bags containing crafts and science experiments will be available from the Wabash Carnegie Public Library (WCPL) every Tuesday and Friday. A special program will take place off-site at 10 a.m. each Wednesday. Storytime kits will be available for pick up on Thursdays, though advanced registration is required through the library’s online calendar, by visiting www.wabash.evanced.com/kids. Teen craft kits will be offered each Thursday and adults will have kits on Tuesday, July 13. Youth services will be offering a book kit on “A Wolf Called Wander” on Friday, June 25. Registration for these kits is required through the Children’s Room or the library’s online calendar. The WCPL Storywalk – located

on Huntington Street at Paradise Springs Park – provides an outdoor space where several of the Wednesday morning programs will take place, along with the introduction of Adult Storytime from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 29. No registration is required and participants are encouraged to bring their lunch to the pavilion. A book discussion will also take place for adults at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 28.

NMPL plans summer reading events

North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) summer reading events have been planned, including Chillz Event: From 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 30; NMPL Pool Party: From noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 7; Activities at the North Manchester Farmers’ Market: From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 17; Slime Spectacular on the NMPL lawn: From 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 21; and Little Book Shop on Market Street: From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 30; and Saturday, July 31. For more information, visit www.nman.lib.in.us.

Downtown Wabash Shop Hop continues throughout June

Shop Hop has returned to downtown Wabash through Wednesday, June 30 and includes a chance to win a prize of \$100 in Shop Hop Dollars, which are redeemable at the participating businesses. Participants will take a June Shop Hop form to each participating business and receive a validation mark, no purchase necessary. Once the Shop Hop form is 100 percent completed, participants will submit their form to one of the participating businesses or Bickford of Wabash, 3037 W. Division Road. June Shop Hop forms must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 30 for a chance to win. The four downtown businesses participating in June’s Shop Hop include Modoc’s Market, 205 S. Miami St.; Jo-Jo’s Ol’Factory & Co., 36 W. Canal St.; Wooden Ivy Boutique & Floral, 12 W. Market St.; and Eclectic Shoppe, 42 W. Canal St. Entry forms are available at each of the participating businesses and a digital copy of the form is available at WabashMarketplace.org.

Project Learning Tree Workshop to be held

Educators are invited to participate in a Project Learning Tree (PLT) K-8 workshop from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, July 9 at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive and Nature Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The workshop fee of \$23 includes a copy of the guide. The fee is payable by check (made out to IFEF/PLT) or cash, payable on the day of the workshop. Bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be provided. Advance registration is required with a deadline of Friday, July 2. Limited space is available. For more information, call 260-468-2127 or email trody@dnr.in.gov.

Salamonie to hold Summer Forest Camp

Salamonie Lake will be

hosting “a unique outdoor day camp” from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, June 28 to Friday, July 2 at Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Children ages 7 to 13 are welcome. Limited space is available. The cost per child is \$60 and \$55 for each additional sibling. For more information and registration, call 260-468-2127.

Salamonie Senior Luncheon planned for Monday, July 5

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon Monday, July 5, at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. Join Huntington County Purdue Extension educator Caroline Everidge, as she gives tips and tricks on “Safety from Scams.” The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their table service. The main dish is provided by Friends of the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services. A \$1 donation will be accepted to help defray costs. Seating is limited. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Salamonie Preschool offers ‘D is for Decomposition’

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool’s “D is for Decomposition.” Children ages 2 to 5 and their adults are welcome to attend the class from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 14 at Salamonie Interpretive Center located in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127. For more information, visit facebook.com/upperwabash.

Indiana 114 to close for bridge maintenance near North Manchester

INDOT has announced the closure of Indiana 114 near North Manchester for bridge maintenance. Crews will be working between Gene Stratton Porter Road and Rock-Springs Pike. Work is scheduled to last until early July. During the closure, motorists should use the posted detour of Indiana 13, Indiana 16 and Indiana 105.

INDOT begins Indiana 13 and 15 Wabash River bridgework

INDOT has announced bridge maintenance work over the Wabash River on Indiana 13 and Indiana 15 in Wabash. The northbound lanes between Lafontaine Avenue and Miami Street will be closed to traffic. Motorists should use the posted detour of Lafontaine Avenue, Huntington Street and Market Street. The southbound lanes between Fulton Street and Dimension Avenue will be reduced to one lane because of the work. The work

is set to wrap up in July.

Indiana 15 lane closures to last through mid-summer

Alternating lane closures are planned for Indiana 15. The work is happening between Indiana 13 and Wedcor Avenue. Widths will be restricted to 13 feet during the project and that loads wider than 13 feet should seek an alternate route using the nearest numbered state, U.S. or interstate routes. The work is scheduled to wrap up by mid-summer.

Salamonie Lake workdays continue throughout summer

Salamonie Lake’s Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, will host a variety of volunteer work-related activities. Check-in and instructions will be available at the Interpretive and Nature Center. The volunteer workdays will continue throughout the summer at 9 a.m. Monday, July 26; 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 16; and 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25. For more information, visit 260-468-2127.

MSD Summer Food Program to provide free breakfasts, lunches

The MSD Summer Food Program will provide weekly meals free of charge for children ages 1 through 18 throughout the MSD area. Throughout the summer, families may pick up five day’s worth of breakfasts and lunches for each child in their household that meets the age criteria from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through July 28 at Northfield High School, 154 W. 200 North, and Southwood High School on the east side of the building, 564 Indiana 124.

Summer at the Wabash County Museum continues

For preschool families with children ages 0 to 5, “Bear Den Days” will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at 36 E. Market St. Sessions will begin with a weekly theme-based story and activity before moving into the Bear Den for an hour of playtime with friends. Registration is recommended due to limited capacity. Admission will be free to those who register in advance. Registration is available at www.wabashmuseum.org/events. Through Friday, July 30, the Wabash County Museum will offer the “Museum Explorers” opportunity for young people who have just completed kindergarten through sixth grades. Youth can visit the Wabash County Museum from Tuesdays through Fridays all summer long to participate in a scavenger hunt where they will find clues in the Wabash County Museum’s various exhibits to win prizes. A different scavenger hunt may be completed each week for the chance to enter an end-of-summer drawing to win one of several large prizes. Accompanying adults will be subject to the standard admission price unless

they have a current museum membership. For more information, visit www.wabashmuseum.org.

YMCA to offer summer meals

The Wabash County YMCA announced their free breakfast and lunch program for children ages 18 and under will be from 8 to 9 a.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch Mondays through Fridays, through Friday, Aug. 6, at 500 S. Cass St. For more information, visit www.wabashcountymca.org or email info@wabashcountnymca.org.

‘Liking for Biking’ returns

Through Saturday, Aug. 28, anyone of any age or skill level who is interested in a free, family-friendly hour-long bike ride is invited to meet at 8:45 a.m. each Saturday at Paradise Spring Historical Park’s upper pavilion, 351 W. Market St. Helmets are required. The next health assessment will take place at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 inside of door 10 at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive, while the rest of the rides will start at Paradise Spring Historical Park with wheels rolling at 9 a.m. Masks are required inside Parkview Wabash Hospital for health assessments. For more information, www.visitwabashcounty.com/adventure-series or call 260-563-7171.

Downtown Wabash Farmers’ Market running every Saturday

The Downtown Wabash Farmers’ Market continues its 2021 season from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through Saturday, Sept. 26 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elks parking lot on the corner of Cass and Market St. Vendors are still being accepted for full-season, half-season and one-time rates. To become a vendor for the 2021 Market, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market or call 260-563-0975. For more information about Downtown Wabash Farmers’ Market, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market.

8th annual Car and Bike Show Bike Ride for Riley Kids planned

The Clown Town Motorcycles and Sharp Shooters Express will present the 8th annual Car and Bike Show Bike Ride for Riley Kids on Saturday, Oct. 2 at the American Legion Post No. 248, 800 Washington St., Lagro. Car show registration will be \$15 per car and will begin at 11 a.m., with kickstands up and entertainment starting at noon. For more information, call 260-466-7655.

Honeywell Ladies Golf Association season continues

The Tuesday Honeywell Ladies Golf Association (LGA) will begin their season with a 9 a.m. shotgun Tuesdays, according to Lana Garber. The yearly dues of \$15 will be taken then. New members are

welcome. Arrive at 8:30 a.m. All Tuesday events are scrambles. Register in the clubhouse by noon Monday.

Honeywell Pool to open on a limited basis

Wabash Parks Department superintendent Adam Hall said the plan for the Mark C. Honeywell Pool was for the pool to be open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays each week. Hall said he would make the final call based on how many lifeguards are available. For more information, visit www.wabashcountnymca.org.

‘Explore Salamonie’ hikes to be held monthly

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services for an “Explore Salamonie” hike at 5 p.m. during each month’s first Saturday through September at Salamonie’s Interpretive and Nature Center at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Wear appropriate footwear, clothing and bring along your water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray. A set of binoculars or cameras may come in handy. Each hike is open to the public and geared for families. Each hike will last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. Registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127. Property entrance fees of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle apply. State Park Annual Entrance Passes are available for purchase.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Indiana DNR probing songbird deaths, illnesses in 5 counties

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — State wildlife officials are investigating reports of dead and dying songbirds in five Indiana counties that suffered from ailments seen in birds in several other states.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources said Tuesday it’s working with the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in its investigation.

The bird deaths and illnesses have been reported in Monroe, Clark and Jefferson counties in southern Indiana and LaGrange and Lake countines in northern Indiana,

the DNR said.

Several bird species, including blue jay, American robin and Northern cardinal have been affected and displayed neurological signs of illness as well as eye swelling and crusty discharge.

The DNR said that all of the bird samples submitted to date have tested negative for avian influenza and West Nile virus, but final laboratory diagnostic results are pending.

Similar reports of dead or ailing songbirds problems have been reported in Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia.

POPULATION

From page A1

Council in the summer of 2019 after they had just completed their population study.

Grant said they were following the recommendations from the Lilly Endowment grant, including creating a comprehensive county-wide plan.

To that end, they had hired Planning NEXT, a consulting firm with “extensive” experience both locally and worldwide.

Grant said they had also undertaken extensive work reaching out to the community.

Originally planned for November 2020 and later February, a series of in-person Imagine One 85 Focus on the Future sessions took place in early March.

“The community turned out well,” said Grant.

Grant said the concerns of the at least 300 individuals who showed up for these sessions ranged from, “I wish we had an Applebees,” to, “Let’s fix the trails.”

Gillenwater said they were “still in the process of starting to roll out and kind of synthesize all of the data we’ve collected.”

Gillenwater said the local population decline has been slow, steady and “almost invisible.”

The local population reached its height of 35,903 in 1980, was now down to between 30,000 and 31,000 and was projected to be down to around 26,000 in 2050 if current trends continued.

Gillenwater said this was evident in local businesses’ difficulty finding people to hire.

“Ask any business in town and they’ll answer in the affirmative,” said Gillenwater.

Gillenwater said the good news was that the economy has been growing. However, that growth locally has been slower than what the national average has been and not to the pace of the region.

Gillenwater said Wabash County was a net exporter of labor.

“A lot of people leave the community to work,” said Gillenwater.

Gillenwater said there is also a shortage of available housing locally, which “has not been keeping up with the market of last four years.”

Gillenwater said Wabash County has an “aging housing stock,” with nearly 40 percent of homes built before 1940.

“We know that’s a need,” said Gillenwater.

Gillenwater said the labor force is shrinking, as well. In 2002, the labor force was around 18,400 people. By this year, that number was down to about 15,000.

Gillenwater said the local labor force has been shrinking six times faster than the overall population due to people who have moved away and the average age of the workforce in the community.

“With, manufacturers you’re looking at long people have been working there. We know we’re at the edge of cliff,” said Gillenwater. “A lot of our manufacturing workforce is 55 or older. This is the biggest critical threat to the long-term health of the community.”

Gillenwater said the local death rate exceeding the birth rate was an inherent challenge.

Biden urges shots for young adults as variant concern grows

By ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government is stepping up efforts to get younger Americans vaccinated for COVID-19 as the White House acknowledges it will miss two key vaccination benchmarks and as concern grows about the spread of a new variant that threatens to set the country back in the months ahead.

The delta variant, first identified in India, in the last two weeks has come to represent more than 20 percent of coronavirus infections in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Tuesday. That’s double what it was when the CDC last reported on the variant’s prevalence.

“The delta variant is currently the greatest threat in the U.S. to our attempt to eliminate COVID-19,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, said at a White House briefing on the virus. “Good news: Our vac-

cines are effective against the delta variant.”

He added: “We have the tools. So let’s use them, and crush the outbreak.”

The White House on Tuesday acknowledged that President Joe Biden will fall short of reaching his goal of vaccinating 70 percent of all American adults with at least one shot by Independence Day. But it tried to paint an optimistic picture nonetheless by stressing that the nation had reached that threshold for those aged 30 and older and expects to meet it for those age 27 or older by the July 4 holiday.

Biden also expects to miss a second goal – fully vaccinating 165 million adult Americans by July 4. White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients projected it will take several more weeks to hit that number. On Monday, the U.S. crossed 150 million fully vaccinated.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki rejected the idea that the missed July 4 benchmarks would represent a failure for

the administration, telling reporters, “We don’t see it exactly like something went wrong.”

Still, administration officials said they were redoubling their focus on vaccinating younger Americans age 18-26, who have proved to be least likely to get a vaccine when it’s available for them.

The nationwide rate of new vaccinations has dropped off precipitously over the past month even as shots have become more available, with fewer than 300,000 Americans now getting their first dose per day on average – a pace that, if sustained, will have the U.S. not reaching Biden’s 70 percent goal until late July at the earliest.

Officials are also increasingly concerned about regional variations in the vaccination program.

More than 16 states and the District of Columbia have vaccinated 70 percent of their adult population. But others – particularly in the South and Midwest – are lagging substantially behind, with four

not having yet reached 50 percent vaccination rates.

The White House said meeting Biden’s vaccination goals is less important than the pace of the nation’s reopening, which is exceeding even its own internal projections as the overwhelming majority of the nation’s most vulnerable people are fully vaccinated and cases and deaths are at their lowest rates since the earliest days of the pandemic, averaging about 11,000 new infections and fewer than 300 deaths per day. More states are opening back up, with Michigan on Tuesday becoming the latest to do away with a mask mandate and virus restrictions. The state had the nation’s worst outbreak this spring.

“We have succeeded beyond our highest expectations,” Zeints said.

Americans at highest risk for complications from COVID-19 are overwhelmingly vaccinated, according to CDC data, but only 53 percent aged 25-39 have received one dose. Among those 18-24, it’s 47 percent.

WCUF

From page A1

year, but that the Basic and Essential Needs grant is a one-time grant.

“Recognizing that there are people in Indiana that are still struggling from financial hardships related to the negative impacts of the pandemic, Lilly Endowment made a second significant COVID-19 related gift to Indiana United Ways for distribution to local United Ways and Funds,” said Johnson.

Johnson said the WCUF has “worked hard over the last year and a half to provide additional financial support through our partner organizations to people in need.”

“We are pleased to be able to provide these opportunities in support of local human and social service programs in Wabash County,” said Johnson.

Johnson said the WCUF is now inviting qualified nonprofit organizations to apply for funding through its Basic and Essential Needs grant.

“The grant was created to support key local programs that are being developed to address community needs,” said Johnson. “Examples of local issues that may be priorities include addiction-related programming, quality and affordable childcare, homelessness and low-income housing and adult education/certification.”

Johnson said eligible organizations include area human and social service nonprofits whose IRS designation is in good standing.

Johnson said interested organizations should consult WCUF for guidance on funding intent and application instructions and that new and existing recipient organizations are encouraged to apply.

Johnson said the priority for this grant will be to support service-related projects that are currently underway in Wabash County.

“There are numerous community projects in the works that just need a little extra funding so they can begin providing much-needed human services to residents, including those who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic,” said Johnson.

Johnson said the second priority will be to support the nonprofit organizations who have themselves been hit hard by restrictions and closures brought on because of the pandemic, as some nonprofit organizations have seen their income decline over the past year and a half due to closures or fundraiser cancellations.

“We hope this grant will offer some help to those organizations facing pandemic recovery,” said Johnson.

Basic and Essential Needs grant application forms are available from WCUF by emailing steve.johnson@wcunitedfund.org or calling 260-563-6726. Completed applications may be submitted by email; mail at P.O. Box 2, Wabash, IN 46992; or delivered to 73 W. Canal St. by noon Friday, July 9.

Johnson said applications will be reviewed and considered by a panel of local volunteers representing WCUF, Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC), Grow Wabash County (GWC), and the community at large. The WCUF’s board of directors will consider the review panel’s recommendations and determine the final grant awards.

Funding for the Basic and Essential Needs grant is made possible, in part, by an \$89,491 COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative grant from Indiana United Ways with support from Lilly Endowment.

The grant is one of 47 grants that Indiana United Ways is making to member organizations and community foundations through the initiative, which was made possible by funding Indiana United Ways received from Lilly Endowment.

“Wabash County United Fund has been a key convener and coordinator of our community’s response to meet human needs for decades. Even before this crisis, we knew that nearly 1 in 3 families in Wabash County struggle to make ends meet, despite working. In the wake of COVID, those needs became even direr. Thanks to the generous, continued support of Lilly Endowment to our State Association, we can continue to help our community, through nonprofit partners, deal with and hopefully resolve the impacts of this trying time,” said WCUF board president Cathy Wolfe.

Johnson said the second COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative grant again calls for United Ways and Funds that receive funding to leverage partnerships and relationships to better meet COVID-related basic needs aligned with the

social determinants of health as defined by the CDC.

In April 2020, Lilly Endowment helped Indiana United Ways establish the COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative with an initial \$30 million grant. Lilly Endowment made an additional \$15 million grant in March to Indiana United Ways to support the initiative. Both grants are part of Lilly Endowment’s overall grantmaking to help organizations meet COVID-related needs. Since March 2020, Lilly Endowment has made grants totaling more than \$210 million to organizations working in Indiana and across the nation as they respond to the pandemic.

In October 2020, the WCUF awarded a total of \$40,000 from the Emergency Relief Grant to 12 Wabash County nonprofits organizations. Last year’s proposals totaled more than \$144,000. The WCUF Board of Directors later discussed and approved the committee’s recommendations.

The proposals included requests for funding to purchase PPE supplies such as face masks, shields, gloves and Plexiglas barriers; sanitizing products such as disinfectants, wipes, hand sanitizer and dispensers and electrostatic sprayers; backpack and food pantry supplies; technology upgrades such as laptop computers and investments in infrastructure to enable organizations to modify their programming; and adaptations to their facilities that are now requirements because of COVID-19 challenges.

Agencies approved to receive funding from last year’s Emergency Relief Grant included 85 Hope, The ACCESS Youth Center, Blessings in a Backpack in North Manchester and Wabash, Friends in Service Here (F.I.S.H.), Grow Wabash County, La Fontaine

Learning Community, Living Well in Wabash County, Manchester Early Learning Center, Manchester Fellowship of Churches, Wabash County Tobacco-Free Coalition and Wabash County Y.M.C.A.

In addition to the special COVID-19-related funding, the WCUF also announced last week that local nonprofit agencies have only a few weeks to apply for funds during this year’s WCUF Annual Campaign.

Johnson said eligible agencies include 501(c)3 organizations serving Wabash County. Organizations interested in receiving a portion of this funding for specific programs must complete and submit an application and budget summary to WCUF by Friday, July 2.

Johnson said for programs to be considered for funding, they must address the human service needs of their clients and meet one or more of WCUF’s focus initiatives including education, health and healthy living and income and financial stability.

Johnson said agencies must agree to maintain 501(c)3 status, have a local volunteer board of directors that meets regularly, keep accurate records that conform with Standards of Account and Financial Reporting, and must submit quarterly program reports of activity to WCUF.

Johnson said funding for selected agency programs will begin in January 2022. A volunteer board of directors governs WCUF. Eighteen local non-profit agencies currently receive financial support from the annual WCUF campaign. These programs feed the hungry, mentor youth, provide medical care, educate citizens, advocate for victims of abuse, and transport young and old.

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Pinarski, Kron earn HCAC recognition

Pair of senior MU student-athletes garner honors from the league office

By DILLON BENDER

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) announced its 2021 Baseball All-Conference teams and award winners on Monday, May 24.

Supreme Court win for college athletes in NCAA case

By JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled unanimously Monday the NCAA can't limit education-related benefits — like computers and paid internships — that colleges can offer their sports stars, a victory for athletes that could help open the door to further easing in the decades-old fight over paying student-athletes.

Schools recruiting top athletes can now offer tens of thousands of dollars in benefits that also include study-abroad programs and graduate scholarships.

However, the case doesn't decide whether students can simply be paid salaries for the benefits their efforts bring — measured in tens of millions for many universities.

The high court said specifically that NCAA limits on the education-related benefits that colleges can offer athletes who play Division I basketball and football violate antitrust laws.

That is important in the short term for students who may see schools competing for talent by sweetening their offers with a variety of education-related benefits. It's also important in the long term because it sets the stage for future challenges to NCAA rules limiting athletes' compensation.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the court that the NCAA sought "immunity from the normal operation of the antitrust laws," an argument the court rejected. Gorsuch said that allowing colleges and universities to offer "enhanced education-related benefits ... may encourage scholastic achievement and allow student-athletes a measure of compensation more consistent with the value they bring to their schools."

Under current NCAA rules, students cannot be paid, and the scholarship money a college can offer is capped at the cost of attending the school.

The NCAA had defended its rules as necessary to preserve the amateur nature of college sports, preventing a blurring of the line between them and professional teams, with colleges trying to lure talented athletes by offering over-the-top benefits. A lower court had upheld the limits on scholarships and cash awards.

Manchester had a pair of senior student-athletes garner recognition from the league office.

Senior shortstop and pitcher Michael Pinarski, from Goshen, was named First Team All-HCAC for the second time in his Black and Gold career on Monday. Pinarski hit a career-best .341 (56-164) with 10 doubles, one triple, seven home runs and 25 RBI. He also scored 39 runs. In 2021, Pinarski posted an on-base percentage of .424 and a

slugging percentage of .543.

On the mound, Pinarski made 13 appearances. He started seven contests, posting a 3-3 record with a 3.72 ERA. He added a pair of saves. His six career saves rank fourth all-time at Manchester.

Additionally, Pinarski threw a complete game against Mt. St. Joseph on April 18.

Senior catcher Brett Kron, from Cincinnati, Ohio, and Oak Hills High School, garnered Honorable

Mention All-HCAC from the league office on Monday. Kron appeared in 38 games for the Black and Gold this spring.

He collected 30 hits, three doubles and one triple. Kron added 22 RBI while drawing 17 walks and scoring 17 runs. A Second Team All-HCAC selection back in 2019, Brett posted an on-base percentage of .356 this spring.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.



K.C. Alfred / The San Diego Union-Tribune / TNS

Jon Rahm celebrates with caddie Adam Hayes a birdie putt on the 18th green to win the U.S. Open on Sunday.

Rahm's moment

Spaniard finds perspective to go with passion and wins a U.S. Open title

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO — Jon Rahm's road to becoming a U.S. Open champion might have started with a pair of bogeys.

It ended with a pair of birdies at Torrey Pines that will be far more memorable. In the previous 120 editions of the U.S. Open, no one had ever birdied the last two holes for a one-shot victory.

The result was pure euphoria for Rahm, a 26-year-old Spaniard known for power and passion, and it's the latter that always got more attention.

That's what took him back to a month ago at Kiawah Island. He struck the ball as well as ever and got nothing out of it. He finished the third round of the PGA Championship with back-to-back bogeys and Rahm was fuming when he was asked to meet with the media.

He was short. He was angry. And he'd had enough of being both.

His emotions helped as much as they hurt in leading him to 11 victories worldwide. But he was a new father, and he felt a greater responsibility.

"I know I can perform at my best without showing my frustration so much. I made that deal with myself after the third round of the PGA," Rahm said Sunday. "I wasn't happy with how I ended, and I could have handled it better. And I vowed to myself to be a better role model for my son. He won't remember any of this because he's only 10 weeks old. But I do."

Nothing was sweeter than seeing Rahm take infant son Kopa into his arms as he walked off the 18th green

Sunday after an 18-foot birdie putt that made him a major champion and added a chapter to the short history of the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines.

It wasn't as big as Tiger Woods making a 12-foot birdie to force a playoff in 2008. It won't be forgotten, either. "Little man, you have no idea what this means right now," Rahm said to his son on the practice range when his one-shot victory over Louis Oosthuizen was secure.

There was wonderment in his voice.

It was that change in perspective at Kiawah Island that he feels led to a closing 68 in the PGA, and an unprompted apology when he signed his card.

"It's OK to be upset, and I'm never going to judge myself for being upset," Rahm said that day. "But I will judge myself if I don't conduct myself properly."

He thrives on emotions, and they were in full view when he made the 25-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to tie for the lead and the winning putt on the 18th.

But what he carried across the South Course was a positive outlook.

It's what he had at the Memorial when he was building a six-shot lead after 54 holes, and when it was taken away from him by two men wearing masks behind the 18th green as they told him he had a positive COVID-19 test and was out of the tournament.

The statement he posted that night sounded scripted at the time. It was closer to raw truth with that shiny U.S. Open trophy at his side: "This is one of those things that happen in life, one of those moments where how we respond to a setback defines us as people."

He even watched the final round of the Memorial on TV.

"He's won two tournaments in a row. I don't care what anyone says. He had that title," Rory McIlroy said. Rahm never looked at it that way. He has lived with the risk of COVID-19

for more than a year, and lost a friend, Jose Manuel Cortizas, a sports reporter from Bilbao, Spain, who fell in love with golf while covering Rahm.

"This is the power of positive thinking," Rahm said. "I was never resentful for one second for what happened. And I don't blame anybody. It's been a difficult year, and unfortunately COVID is a reality in this world, and it's affected a lot of people."

McIlroy was among several contenders who lost their way on the back nine Sunday, and one of four players who made double bogeys that cleared the stage for Rahm and Oosthuizen.

McIlroy was quick to point out that someone would have to be in a good place mentally to bounce back from such a setback.

"But he obviously knew his game was there," McIlroy said. "And he just had to go out and play the way he knows he can."

With passion. With purpose. With birdies.

Two major champions helped along the way. Rahm said Padraig Harrington and Nick Faldo reached out after his positive test to share their stories.

Harrington once had a five-shot lead on the European Tour in 2000 and was disqualified when someone discovered he never signed his scorecard in the first round. Faldo had a six-shot lead with six holes to play in 1994 in Indonesia when someone realized he had removed a stone from a bunker the day before. He was disqualified for an incorrect scorecard.

"I believed from the biggest setbacks we can get some of the biggest breakthroughs, and that's why I stay so positive," Rahm said. "That's why I kept telling (wife) Kelley when she was devastated about what happened ... something good is going to come."

"I don't know what, but something good is going to come," he said. "And I felt it today out there on the golf course."

SCOREBOARD

NBA	
CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Sunday, June 20	
Phoenix 120, L.A. Clippers 114, Phoenix leads series 1-0	
Tuesday, June 22	
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.	
Wednesday, June 23	
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.	
Thursday, June 24	
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.	
Friday, June 25	
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.	
Saturday, June 26	
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.	
Sunday, June 27	
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.	
Monday, June 28	
x-L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.	
Tuesday, June 29	
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, June 30	
x-Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.	
Thursday, July 1	
x-Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.	
Friday, July 2	
x-L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.	
Saturday, July 3	
x-Milwaukee at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.	
Monday, July 5	
x-Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.	

NHL	
CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7) (x-if necessary) Monday, June 21	
Tampa Bay 8, N.Y. Islanders 0, Tampa Bay leads series 3-2	
Tuesday, June 22	
Montreal at Vegas, 9 p.m.	
Wednesday, June 23	
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 8 p.m.	
Thursday, June 24	
Vegas at Montreal, 8 p.m.	
Friday, June 25	
x-N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay, TBA	
Saturday, June 26	
x-Montreal at Vegas, TBA	

MLB	
American League	
East Division	
	W L Pct GB
Boston	43 29 .597 —
Tampa Bay	43 30 .589 ½
New York	38 33 .535 4½
Toronto	35 35 .500 7
Baltimore	23 49 .319 20
Central Division	
	W L Pct GB
Chicago	43 29 .597 —
Cleveland	40 30 .571 2
Kansas City	32 38 .457 10
Minnesota	31 41 .431 12
Detroit	30 42 .417 13
West Division	
	W L Pct GB
Houston	44 28 .611 —
Oakland	44 30 .595 1
Seattle	38 36 .514 7
Los Angeles	36 36 .500 8
Texas	26 46 .361 18
Monday's Games	
Houston 10, Baltimore 2	
Cleveland 4, Chicago Cubs 0	
Texas 8, Oakland 3	
Minnesota 7, Cincinnati 5, 12 innings	

Tuesday's Games
Cincinnati at Minnesota
Chicago White Sox at Pittsburgh
Houston at Baltimore
Kansas City at N.Y. Yankees
Boston at Tampa Bay
St. Louis at Detroit
Toronto at Miami
Cleveland at Chicago Cubs
Oakland at Texas
San Francisco at L.A. Angels
Colorado at Seattle

Wednesday's Games
Chicago White Sox (Cease 5-3) at Pittsburgh (De Jong 0-1), 12:35 p.m.
St. Louis (Gant 4-5) at Detroit (Manning 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Gausman 8-1) at L.A. Angels (Ohtani 3-1), 4:07 p.m.
Colorado (Marquez 5-6) at Seattle (Sheffield 5-6), 4:10 p.m.
Houston (Urquidly 5-3) at Baltimore (Eshelman 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Bubic 2-2) at N.Y. Yankees (King 0-3), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Richards 4-4) at Tampa Bay (Yarbrough 4-3), 7:10 p.m.
Toronto (TBD) at Miami (Rogers 7-3), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Kaprielian 4-1) at Texas (Foltynewicz 1-7), 8:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Kansas City at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m.
Oakland at Texas, 2:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Houston at Detroit, 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.

National League	
East Division	
	W L Pct GB
New York	37 30 .552 —
Philadelphia	34 35 .493 4
Atlanta	34 37 .479 5
Washington	33 36 .478 5
Miami	31 40 .437 8
Central Division	
	W L Pct GB
Chicago	40 33 .548 —
Milwaukee	40 33 .548 —
St. Louis	36 36 .500 3½
Cincinnati	35 36 .493 4
Pittsburgh	25 45 .357 13½
West Division	
	W L Pct GB
San Francisco	46 26 .639 —
Los Angeles	44 28 .611 2
San Diego	43 32 .573 4½
Colorado	30 43 .411 16½
Arizona	21 53 .284 26

Monday's Games
N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 2, 7 innings, 1st game
Atlanta 1, N.Y. Mets 0, 7 innings, 2nd game
Cleveland 4, Chicago Cubs 0
Arizona 5, Milwaukee 1
Minnesota 7, Cincinnati 5, 12 innings
San Diego 6, L.A. Dodgers 2

Tuesday's Games
Cincinnati at Minnesota
Chicago White Sox at Pittsburgh
Washington at Philadelphia
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets
St. Louis at Detroit
Toronto at Miami
Cleveland at Chicago Cubs
San Francisco at L.A. Angels
Milwaukee at Arizona
Colorado at Seattle
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego

Wednesday's Games
Chicago White Sox (Cease 5-3) at Pittsburgh (De Jong 0-1), 12:35 p.m.
Washington (Fedde 4-4) at Philadelphia (Velazquez 2-2), 1:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Gant 4-5) at Detroit (Manning 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Woodruff 5-3) at Arizona (Smith 2-2), 3:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Gausman 8-1) at L.A. Angels (Ohtani 3-1), 4:07 p.m.
Colorado (Marquez 5-6) at Seattle (Sheffield 5-6), 4:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Fried 4-4) at N.Y. Mets (Peterson 2-5), 7:10 p.m.
Toronto (TBD) at Miami (Rogers 7-3), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Bauer 7-5) at San Diego (Mugrove 4-6), 10:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Atlanta at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

WNBA	
Tuesday's Games	
Chicago at New York	
Dallas at Connecticut	
Washington at Seattle	
Wednesday's Games	
Minnesota at Atlanta, 7 p.m.	
Thursday's Games	
Chicago at New York, 7 p.m.	
Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m.	
Washington at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.	

Raiders' Nassib becomes first active NFL player to come out as gay

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

Las Vegas Raiders defensive end Carl Nassib on Monday became the first active NFL player to come out as gay.

Nassib, who is entering his sixth NFL season and second with the Raiders, announced the news on Instagram, saying he wasn't doing it for the

attention but because he felt representation and visibility were important.

"I just wanted to take a quick moment to say that I'm gay," Nassib said in his video message from his home in West Chester, Pennsylvania. "I've been meaning to do this for a while now, but I finally feel comfortable enough to get it off my chest."

"I really have the best life. I got the best family, friends and job a guy can ask for. I'm a pretty private person, so I hope you guys know that I'm really not doing this for attention. I just think that representation and visibility are so important."

Nassib added in a written message that followed the video that he "agonized over this moment for the last 15

years" and only recently decided to go public with his sexuality after receiving the support of family and friends.

"I am also incredibly thankful for the NFL, my coaches, and fellow players for their support," Nassib wrote. "I would not have been able to do this without them. From the jump I was greeted with the utmost respect and ac-

ceptance."

Nassib, whose announcement came during Pride Month, added that he was donating \$100,000 to the Trevor Project, a nonprofit that seeks to prevent suicides among LGBTQ youth.

"The NFL family is proud of Carl for courageously sharing his truth today," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "